

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

- 1 1. A search tool graphical user interface, comprising:
2 search criteria selected by an operator of the search tool;
3 one or more search results that correspond to the search criteria; and
4 an indication of availability of content corresponding to the one or more search
5 results.
- 1 2. The search tool graphical user interface of claim 1 wherein the indication of availability
2 includes a textual message proximate to the search result for which the indication of
3 availability is being rendered.
- 1 3. The search tool graphical user interface of claim 1 wherein the indication of availability
2 includes a graphical icon proximate to the search result for which the indication of
3 availability is being rendered.
- 1 4. The search tool graphical user interface of claim 3 wherein the icon is selectable to reveal
2 text describing the availability of content corresponding to the search result for which the
3 indication of availability is being rendered.
- 1 5. The search tool graphical user interface of claim 1 wherein the indication of availability
2 includes an ordering of search results, the ordering including search results corresponding
3 to available content before search results corresponding to unavailable content.
- 1 6. The search tool graphical user interface of claim 5 wherein the ordering includes display
2 of a heading that distinguishes search results corresponding to available content from
3 search results corresponding to unavailable content.
- 1 7. The search tool graphical user interface of claim 1 wherein the indication of availability
2 includes display of search results corresponding to available content and purposeful
3 omission from display of search results corresponding to unavailable content.
- 1 8. A search tool graphical user interface, comprising:

2 search criteria selected by an operator of the search tool;
3 one or more search results that correspond to the search criteria; and
4 an indication of maturity of content corresponding to the one or more search results.

1 9. The search tool graphical user interface of claim 8 wherein the indication of maturity
2 includes a textual message proximate to the search result for which the indication of
3 availability is being rendered.

1 10. The search tool graphical user interface of claim 8 wherein the indication of maturity
2 includes a graphical icon proximate to the search result for which the indication of
3 availability is being rendered.

1 11. The search tool graphical user interface of claim 10 wherein the icon is selectable to
2 reveal text describing the maturity of content corresponding to the search result for which
3 the indication of maturity is being rendered.

1 12. The search tool graphical user interface of claim 8 wherein the indication of maturity
2 includes an ordering of search results, the ordering including search results corresponding
3 to content appropriate for minors before search results corresponding to content
4 inappropriate for minors.

1 13. The search tool graphical user interface of claim 12 wherein the ordering includes display
2 of a heading that distinguishes search results corresponding to content appropriate for
3 minors from search results corresponding to content inappropriate for minors.

1 14. The search tool graphical user interface of claim 8 wherein the indication of availability
2 includes display of search results corresponding to content inappropriate for minors and
3 purposeful omission from display of search results corresponding to content inappropriate
4 for minors.

1 15. A search tool graphical user interface, comprising:
2 search criteria selected by an operator of the search tool;

one or more search results that correspond to the search criteria; and
an indication of characteristics displayed for one or more of the search results.

16. The search tool graphical user interface of claim 15 wherein an indication of characteristics is displayed for each of the search results.

17. The search tool graphical user interface of claim 15 wherein the characteristics include an availability for display of content in response to selection of the search result such that at least one of the search results is displayed with an indication that content corresponding to the search result is available for display in response to selection of the search result.

18. The search tool graphical user interface of claim 15 wherein the characteristics include a presence of advertisements such that at least one of the search results is displayed with an indication of the presence of advertisements that will be rendered upon selection of content corresponding to the at least one of the search results.

19. The search tool graphical user interface of claim 18 wherein the advertising includes pop-up advertisements.

20. The search tool graphical user interface of claim 18 wherein the advertising includes pop-under advertisements.

21. The search tool graphical user interface of claim 18 wherein the advertising includes rich media advertisements.

22. The search tool graphical user interface of claim 15 wherein the characteristics include an age appropriateness such that at least one of the search results is displayed with an indication of the age appropriateness of content corresponding to the at least one of the search results.

23. The search tool graphical user interface of claim 15 wherein the characteristics include a file type such that at least one of the search results is displayed with an indication of the

file type included in content to be rendered in response to selection of the at least one of the search results.

24. The search tool graphical user interface of claim 15 wherein the characteristics include a presence of multimedia content such that at least one of the search results is displayed with an indication of the presence of multimedia content included in content to be rendered in response to selection of the at least one of the search results.

25. The search tool graphical user interface of claim 15 wherein the characteristics include sources of the one or more search results such that at least one of the search results is displayed with an indication of the source of content to be rendered in response to selection of the at least one search result.

26. The search tool graphical user interface of claim 25 wherein the source includes a message board.

27. The search tool graphical user interface of claim 25 wherein the source includes a discussion forum.

28. The search tool graphical user interface of claim 25 wherein the source includes a web page.

29. The search tool graphical user interface of claim 15 wherein the characteristics include a metric related to people known to the user that have viewed the search results such that at least one search result is displayed with an indication of the known people that have viewed content corresponding to the search result.

30. The search tool graphical user interface of claim 15 wherein the indication of the characteristics includes a textual message proximate to the search result for which a characteristics indication is being rendered.

1 31. The search tool graphical user interface of claim 15 wherein the indication of the
2 characteristics includes a graphical icon proximate to the search result for which a
3 characteristics indication is being rendered.

1 32. The search tool graphical user interface of claim 31 wherein the icon is selectable to
2 reveal text describing the characteristics of the search result for which the icon is
3 rendered.

1 33. The search tool graphical user interface of claim 31 wherein the icon is selectable to
2 reveal text describing the means of identifying the characteristics of the search result for
3 which the icon is rendered.

1 34. The search tool graphical user interface of claim 15 wherein the indication of the
2 characteristics includes multiple graphical icons proximate to the search result for which
3 the multiple graphical icons are displayed.

1 35. The search tool graphical user interface of claim 34 wherein each of the multiple
2 graphical icons is selectable to reveal text describing the characteristics of the search
3 result for which the multiple graphical icons are rendered represented.

1 36. The search tool graphical user interface of claim 15 wherein the indication of the
2 characteristics includes an ordering of the search results.

1 37. The search tool graphical user interface of claim 36 wherein ordering includes display of
2 a heading that distinguishes at least one set of search results from another based on the
3 characteristics therefore.

1 38. The search tool graphical user interface of claim 36 wherein ordering includes newly
2 discovered search results before previously displayed search results yielded from a prior
3 search of the search criteria.

1 39. The search tool graphical user interface of claim 36 wherein ordering includes search
2 results corresponding to available content before search results corresponding to
3 unavailable content.

1 40. The search tool graphical user interface of claim 36 wherein ordering includes search
2 results corresponding to age appropriate content before search results corresponding to
3 age inappropriate content.

1 41. The search tool graphical user interface of claim 36 wherein ordering includes search
2 results corresponding to content without advertisements before search results
3 corresponding to content with advertisements.

1 42. The search tool graphical user interface of claim 36 wherein ordering includes search
2 results corresponding to content of a first file type displayed before search results
3 corresponding to content of a second file type.

1 43. The search tool graphical user interface of claim 36 wherein ordering includes search
2 results corresponding to content with multimedia content before search results
3 corresponding to content without multimedia content.

1 44. The search tool graphical user interface of claim 36 wherein ordering includes search
2 results corresponding to content without multimedia content before search results
3 corresponding to content with multimedia content.

1 45. The search tool graphical user interface of claim 36 wherein ordering includes search
2 results corresponding to content from a first source displayed before search results
3 corresponding to content from a second source.

1 46. The search tool graphical user interface of claim 36 wherein ordering includes search
2 results corresponding to content that has been viewed by a higher number of known
3 people before search results corresponding to content that has been viewed by a lower
4 number of known people.

1 47. The search tool graphical user interface of claim 15 wherein the indication of the
2 characteristics includes display of search results corresponding to content that is available
3 and purposeful omission from the display of search results corresponding to content that
4 is not presently available.

1 48. The search tool graphical user interface of claim 15 wherein the indication of the
2 characteristics includes display of search results corresponding to age appropriate content
3 and purposeful omission from display of search results corresponding to age
4 inappropriate content.

1 49. The search tool graphical user interface of claim 15 wherein the indication of the
2 characteristics includes display of search results corresponding to content without
3 advertisements and purposeful omission from display of search results corresponding to
4 content with advertisements.

1 50. The search tool graphical user interface of claim 15 wherein the indication of the
2 characteristics includes display of search results corresponding to content of a first file
3 type displayed and purposeful omission from display of search results corresponding to
4 content of a second file type.

1 51. The search tool graphical user interface of claim 15 wherein the indication of the
2 characteristics includes display of search results corresponding to content with
3 multimedia content and purposeful omission from display of search results corresponding
4 to content without multimedia content.

1 52. The search tool graphical user interface of claim 15 wherein the indication of the
2 characteristics includes display of search results corresponding to content without
3 multimedia content and purposeful omission from display of search results corresponding
4 to content with multimedia content.

1 53. The search tool graphical user interface of claim 15 wherein the indication of the
2 characteristics includes display of search results corresponding to content from a first
3 source displayed and purposeful omission from display of search results corresponding to
4 content from a second source.

1 54. The search tool graphical user interface of claim 15 wherein the indication of the
2 characteristics includes display of search results corresponding to content that has been
3 viewed by a number of known people above a threshold and purposeful omission from
4 display of search results corresponding to content that has been viewed by a number of
5 known people below the threshold.

1 55. A method for indicating characteristics of search results, the method comprising:
2 receiving search criteria to be applied against one or more data stores;
3 identifying one or more search results that correspond to the search criteria;
4 identifying characteristics of individual of the one or more search results; and
5 displaying the search results with an indication of the characteristics of at least one of
6 the search results.

1 56. The method of claim 55 further comprising sorting the search results based on the
2 characteristics of each search result.

1 57. The method of claim 55 further comprising purposefully omitting from display search
2 results based on the characteristics of the omitted search results.

1 58. The method of claim 55 wherein identifying characteristics of each of the one or more
2 search results comprises:
3 gathering information related to the one or more search results; and
4 analyzing the gathered information to determine the characteristics of each of the one
5 or more search results.

1 59. The method of claim 58 wherein gathering information related to search comprises:

2 accessing the one or more search results;
3 identifying tokens describing the search results; and
4 storing the identified tokens.

1 60. The method of claim 55 wherein identifying the characteristics of each of the one or more
2 search results occurs before the search results are identified as corresponding to the
3 search criteria.

1 61. The method of claim 55 wherein identifying the characteristics of each of the one or more
2 search results occurs after the search results are displayed.

1 62. The method of claim 61 wherein identifying the characteristics of each of the one or more
2 search results comprises:
3 visiting each of the one or more search results; and
4 identifying the characteristics of each of the one or more search results based on the
5 visit.

1 63. The method of claim 55 wherein identifying the characteristics of each of the one or more
2 search results comprises identifying the characteristics of each of the one or more search
3 results based on information regarding each of the one or more search results gathered
4 before the search results are displayed.

1 64. The method of claim 63 wherein the information regarding each of the one or more
2 search results comprises an identification of pages viewed before and after each of the
3 one or more search results.

1 65. The method of claim 63 wherein the information regarding each of the one or more
2 search results comprises an identification of content of each of the one or more search
3 results.

1 66. The method of claim 63 wherein the information regarding each of the one or more
2 search results comprises an identification of how each of the one or more search result
3 were used.

1 67. The method of claim 55 wherein identifying the characteristics of individual of the one or
2 more search results comprises:
3 identifying people that have viewed each of the one or more search results; and
4 identifying the characteristics of each of the one or more search results based on the
5 people that have viewed each of the one or more search results.